

In Western North Carolina, the hills and tree-cover tend to defeat wireless communications. In addition, the sparse and underemployed population does not provide a financial incentive to broadband corporations. A 900 MHz wireless network is being deployed, but it cannot reach many of the houses and business without numerous tall towers. The Broadcast TV band would offer superior coverage, by cutting through more foliage and bending over steeper ridges. It would allow lower-cost broadband internet access to reach a greater portion of this area, and hence boost its flagging economic health.